



GOOD TASTE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
THUNDER BAY ATARI ST ENTHUSIASTS.

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New STuff !

Its been about 3 month now since our last meeting, but that doesn't mean that our club or Atari has been at a stand still.

As for the club Neville and myself have been working on the Public Domain Library. At the time of this writing we have 85 disks in the library, but this number should increase greatly as the year progresses. The complete catalog with descriptions will be included on this month disk of the month.

Both Atari and other third party developers have been busy with software and hardware projects. The Atari IBM emulator is said to be a priority once again. This emulator will be hardware based and probably plug into the cartridge port. Also being hardware based the running speed should be good.

The Atari Portable ST is said to be their number one priority and will probably be out by the end of the year. It will have a LCD screen and a possible (rumored) built in hard drive.

Also Atari is developing their 4th version of tos. This tos is due out by the end of the year and will have many improvements over the originals. Tos started with version 1 which was a disk based version, this was soon followed by version 2 which is found in most STs today, version 3 is the mega roms which was created to support the blitter but

led to some incompatibility with certain programs. Version 4 will clear up at least some of the incompatibilities as well as adding many features which are new to all versions of tos including a new and improved item selector. For more info on tos 4 see Neville's article in this issue.

Third party support seems to be healthy for the ST with many very good products coming out which should strengthen Atari's position in the computer world.

Quantum Microsystems Inc. has finally released their ST Talk Professional. This seems to be a very powerful terminal program which uses custom fonts allowing either 80 or 140 columns inside a gem window and believe me the 140 columns is even readable on the color monitor although it is a little fussy. On the monochrome monitor the 140 column text is crystal clear. This program should be a strong contender for the top ST terminal program. The other two contenders for top terminal program- Interlink ST and Flash are continuing to support the ST strongly through numerous upgrades. My current favorite is Interlink but I suspect this is only because I have yet to use ST Talk Professional, this one looks very good. Look for my review of these 3 term programs for the ST in an upcoming issue of GOOD TASTE.

Following is a list of some of the new or improved software for the ST which has become available for the ST:

REVOLVOR-by Intersect software the makers of Interlink, this product is advertised as a virtual switcher and the ultimate utility package for the ST. This package has many features including dividing memory in as many as 8 segments and being able to switch between programs that are loaded into these segments, or taking a picture of memory including accessories and any programs that are resident and saving these as a file that can be loaded at a fraction of the time. That's only two uses, this package has many more.

DBMAN VERSION 5-Verasoft is releasing version 5 of there powerful database and also a new and improved version of there compiler now called Greased Lightning.

FLEXCESSORY- From E. Arthur Brown Company it loads/dumps Accessories W/O rebooting or quitting applications.

INDEX V- For those who don't need a data base as powerful as Dbman this data base from E. Arthur Brown Company is the electronic equivalent of a 3x5 index card file. They claim that you can find the info you need in 2-4 seconds.

VIDEO KEY- by Practical Solutions converts the ST RGB signal to composite so you can output it to a composite monitor or VCR.

GFA BASIC 3.0- Michtron has released their newest version of this most popular basic interpreter for the ST.

QUANTUM PAINTBOX- this paint program for the ST allows 4096 colors on your ST screen at one time.

This list only constitutes a small number of the great new products coming out for the ST. I am sure that there are many I have missed such as the vast number of great games from Europe and programs such as Wordsup and fontz from Neocept. I am sure we will be reading about some of these in future issues of GOOD TASTE and who knows we may even see and talk about some of these at our next meeting Thursday September 29th. Hope to see you all there.

Ed Glertuga

WELCOME BACK

While it is probably still too early to think of putting away your fishing gear, golf clubs and so on, it is time to think computers once again, and naturally this includes TASTE, our user group. Summer vacations and the like meant an abbreviated July-August edition of GOOD TASTE; we'll make amends by making this issue a full-length (or more) version.

I am sure that many of us have interesting thoughts to share after having been away from computers for the past two months. Why not make it a point to attend our September meeting which will be held on September 29th at the Aircraft Maintenance Hangar, at 7.30 pm. Here is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Between ourselves : catching up on the latest news and activities that YOU can share with others.
2. Membership Report:
3. Responsibilities of the Executive: clarifying functions.
4. Membership drive: we should make an all-out effort to get new members.
5. Public Relations, and getting New Members: Ken Ritchie has agreed to look after this, but could use help.
6. Financial Report: we are in good shape, but do not

forget to renew your membership!!

7. Disk of the Month: as usual, lots of goodies. Please buy the disk and support TASTE.

8. Our PD Library: 85 disks so far, and growing...

9. Demos : 1 utility and one or more games

That's quite a bit for one evening, I feel. So, do plan to attend the meeting. See you all there.

Neville

A VISIT TO MAST HQ IN MINNEAPOLIS

by Neville Denetto

It is always interesting to visit a larger city such as Minneapolis; in my case it was more so because of a very informative and enjoyable 3-hour visit with Jim Schultz, President of MAST (Minnesota Atari ST). I was trying to take notes as Jim was speaking and demonstrating several programs. Hopefully, accuracy was not sacrificed in my transcription of these notes here at home. A summary follows....

MAST is a user group of about 60 active ST users. They meet on the third Friday of each month, with 20 to 30 members in attendance at each meeting. The monthly newsletter is a combined venture, with the Atari 8-bit user group SPACE (Saint Paul Atari Computer Enthusiasts) as the partner.

As far as possible, each meeting has a theme. The meeting that I missed in August was game oriented. There were 6 ST's/Megas in operation simultaneously, and each one was used to run a game; the evening was a big success.

MAST has an extensive public domain library. It is Jim's job (yes, he is also the Librarian) to update the library by searching the various bulletin boards for the latest PD programs and information. At the present time they have over 200 disks, with 5 or more new disks being added each month.

One of the big attractions at each meeting is...you guessed it... the Disks of the Month. Jim puts together 7 to 10 DIFFERENT disks each month. Most of them are theme disks, as follows: Utilities, Games, Applications, Pascal, GFA, C, Demos etc. The biggest sellers are the first 3 categories ie. Utilities, Games, and Applications. All files are in an un-arced form; each disk costs \$6.00. Jim tells me that selling 75 to 100 disks a month is not uncommon. The 1040ST, disk drive and monitors that are used at each meeting belong to the Club. Many of the members are younger programmers; my guess is that the average age of the group is about 25. Jim himself is a C-programmer, though he also gets into other languages. He uses a 520ST upgraded to 1 Meg, one SS drive, one DS drive, a 5.25 in IBM compatible drive, a 30 Meg hard drive, 2

monitors, a 2400 baud modem, switches for monitors, drives etc...a truly dedicated ST user.

The Group has its own BBS which members can access. Blank DS disks sell for \$1.15 each, and 200 pin-feed labels cost \$2. The disks and labels are available at each meeting.

Thanks very much for your time, Jim, and I am looking forward to being in closer touch with your group and yourself, now that I have paid the \$15 membership to join MAST.

Note: A few sample copies of the MAST newsletter will be available at our September meeting.

THE NEW ATARI ST/MEGA ROM by Neville Denetto

The following is a 'press release' (in its entirety) that accompanied the Beta (test) shipments of the proposed ST/Mega TOS which will be available this fall from your Atari dealer. I was fortunate enough to see a Beta disk version of the new TOS run on an ST during a recent visit to Minneapolis; I do believe that the product will be well worth the wait. A special word of thanks goes to Jim Schultz, President, MAST, for arranging this demonstration for me, in spite of time constraints.

Article 9414 (7 more) in comp.sys.atari.st

Subject: Re: Beta release TOS et al

BETA RELEASE OF NEW TOS AND HD UTILITIES FOR ST/MEGA

THIS IS *NOT* A SOLICITATION FOR BETA TEST SITES! IT IS THE FULFILLMENT OF AN EARLIER PROMISE TO PUBLISH THE STATUS OF THE NEW PRODUCTS.

The Beta shipments of the new ST/Mega TOS went out to Atari subsidiaries this week. Some have even arrived already. Beta versions of the new Hard Disk utilities and a disk "cache" program were included. The entire kit consisted of the following:

TOS ROM set, configured for local keyboard and American text. Diskette (D/S) containing:
RAM loadable image of TOS, same configuration as ROM
Disk cache program "CACHExxx"
HDX Hard Disk utility, HINSTALL and associated programs
Product Tracking System front-end program "SPRgen"
Release Notes for:
TOS
CACHExxx
HDX, HINSTALL etc (modified to 30/60MB hard disks)
Draft User Manual for HDX, HINSTALL etc.
User guide for Product Tracking System Various programs, files and tools to assist in translation

Each subsidiary has been invited to select a small set of Beta sites, and has been requested to ensure that each such site accepts, in writing, certain terms and conditions, including:

no copies to be made products and documentation are prerelease and without warranty all communications are to be made solely to the Atari subsidiary, and not through public channels all copies and documentation to be returned to Atari subsidiary on demand weekly report indicating name(s) of tester(s), tests performed, observations to be filed with Atari subsidiary each Friday any bug reports to be first verified against the currently released hardware/firmware, to ensure problem is with new TOS

We want to know what works as well as what doesn't work. A report of "no problems" is worthless if it is not accompanied by an explanation of what testing has been performed. If a program fails, it is critical that it be tested with other RELEASED configurations, so that it is very clear whether or not the failure is attributable solely to the new TOS.

In our testing we have found MANY ill-behaved programs which fail because they appear to access beyond the Mega 4's 4MB RAM limit. I believe they are accessing "just beyond" where they are supposed to, and it's only on the Mega 4 where they run out of physical address space rather than physical memory. Almost all programs which fail this way have been retested on the current TOS and fail in a similar way.

This beta release is not the final one. Programs should not be modified to look for the date encoded in this version.

PLEASE DO *NOT* CONTACT ANYONE IN ATARI R&D TO SUPPORT THIS BETA TEST. ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE TECHNICAL MANAGER OF THE APPROPRIATE ATARI SUBSIDIARY, OR TO JOE FERRARI (408-745-2010) IN THE USA. The R&D group must now address the port of TOS to revised and new hardware platforms, and so I would appreciate your NOT disrupting the development activity. We have support groups in place, and they MUST be your first line of support if development of new products is to continue at optimum speed.

A summary of the major improvements to TOS follows:

Floppy formatting is "more compatible" with IBM-PC format A file may be moved (i.e. copy/delete) in one operation File Copy/Delete/Move can be interrupted with "undo" GEM programs can be autobooted from disk if a name conflict occurs during a file copy, Copy/Skip/Quit are allowed A folder may be renamed via "Show Info" The static file allocation limit of 400 is removed; limited now by free memory "Show/Print File" are completely rewritten File copying on a single floppy system uses all available memory for buffers "wind_update(FALSE)" is set when recovering from an application crash All date separators are now "/" File Selector has had major rework:

16 drive buttons

Application can send a "title" string to FSEL

FSEL now takes first <RETURN> on pathname edit as end-of-edit

FSEL remembers where it was in a file list

Static file allocation of 100 files is removed

Long pathnames and "ABORT/CONTINUE" now handled correctly

Preserves current DTA buffer addresses, clip rectangles and default directories

New bindings available

"appl_int" returns version 0130 in global(0)

Editable fields may now be followed by non-editable characters in dialog boxes

"wind_get()" with field parameter WF_SCREEN returns address/length of AES menu/alert buffer

"Ptsin" (VDI) allows 512 vertices (true since 4/22/87)

"vqt_extent": Pixel errors on some 270 degree rotations are fixed

"vq_mouse" reliability enhanced

40-folder bug alleviated to the point of improbability. A folder only takes up space when "active". Limited now by depth of folders and the accumulated depth of open files. FOLDRxxx still available.

"Malloc" restriction of 20 blocks/process lifted.

FAT searching code for floppy and hard-disk is MUCH faster

Sector buffering greatly improved, and "CACHExxx" allows expansion

"Frename" can now rename a folder

Archive bit (0x20) fully supported

Time stamps for "." and ".." are now correct

"Fsettime/Fsetdate" match BIOS and GEMDOS values

"Fdatetime" input value byteswap fixed

Major improvements to "Ccon*" and redirection in general OS Pool reduced to same size as 11/20/85 ROMs (pre Mega). This may allow some programs which fail on Mega ROMs to work again.

Soft Reset available from Keyboard if using standard keyboard handler.

Soft reset by CTRL/ALT/DEL

Cold Boot clears all available memory (CTRL/ALT/right SHIFT/DEL)

"Rsconf(-2,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1)" returns last baud rate value set by Rsconf

Structure of the reserved part of DTA has changed, and remains reserved

Improvements made to detection of media change

THE ABOVE IS A SUBSET OF THE ENHANCEMENTS MADE. THERE ARE MANY MORE, FULLY DOCUMENTED IN THE RELEASE NOTES SENT TO EACH SUBSIDIARY.

Roy J. Good Product Development, Atari Corporation
Views expressed are my own. Atari may agree or disagree; they have the right.

End of article 9414 (of 9421)--what next? [npq]

DISK OF THE MONTH.

Septembers disk of the month features a terminal program, utilities, games and our complete TASTE library listing.

Following is a list of programs that can be found on the September disk of the month:

DCOPY 1.98- this is the newest update to this great utility which allows you to arc and unarc programs besides a number of dos utilities.

VANTERM- For those of you that don't have a terminal program yet this shareware program seems to be very good. It supports a number of file transfer protocols as well as the ability to arc and unarc files. Due to the size this program is provided in arc form. Use the Dearc utility provided on this disk to unarc it. First copy Vanterm, Dearc.prg and arc.ttp onto a blank formatted disk and run the dearc program it will unarc the Vanterm file automatically.

FORMAT- an extended format program.

NFLANALY- A program to help you pick out NFL football winners.

WORMWAR- This a game program is much like the commercial game centipede. Use your bug blaster to shoot down bugs, mushrooms and the centipede itself using the mouse for control.

SOLITAIRE.ACC- A accessory version of the classic solitaire card game. Instructions are included.

TASTELIB- This folder contains the entire Taste library listing describing our 85 disks and the programs on them. You will find many utilities, applications and games to add to your personal library. There is also an index file in this folder that gives a shorter summary of what each disk contains. These disks are available to all club members for \$4.00 each.

This disk will be available at our September 29th meeting for \$4.00. We will also have a short demo of this disk at the above meeting.

Ed Gieruga.

ST REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

From ST Report Issues 44-50

July 18, 1988

CALIFORNIA Larry Samuels has joined the departed from Atari. He was the person who seemed to be involved with the dealers.

CALIFORNIA WHY?: First Computer and Federated can sell the MEGA2 ST for \$1195.00 under the protection of

"PRICE MATCH WAR"

CALIFORNIA Does Andy Jong really like Amiga and Macs better than Atari ST? If true, why is he the dealer spokesperson?

CANADA Darek Mihoka will be releasing the NEWEST 8 bit Emulator ST TRANSFORMER II Aug.01,1988, It will contain several new functions also, the new Shareware Fee is now only 20.00.

CALIFORNIA Charles F. Johnson sez the NEW "G-WIZ" G-Dos replacement will be available shortly..

WASHINGTON, D.C. According to an inside source, The FCC is looking over CLONES of Atari's ST computer.....

CONGRATULATIONS After receiving a visit from a Cupid Courier, We at the Confidential Desk extend our warmest well wishes to: DARLAH HUDSONGetting Married!

July 25, 1988

CALIFORNIA Atari should get rid of those horrid sounding speaker phones they are using, they make the people at Atari sound like 'droids.....

NEVADA Seems some "big wigs" at Tahoe are miffed at each other about certain plans over an exotic piece of hardware....tsk tsk!

NEW YORK Seems the Advertising we all are waiting to see is going to be mediocre at best for the ST. The ratio of bux for ads is sort of lop-sided in favor of the game machines....

CALIFORNIA When the cat's away, the mice play,....there may be some feathers flying when the wigs get back from Tahoe, a few little people have flexed their muscles and will definately cause serious ripples by having done so.....

FLORIDA The LAND SALES deals using Atari's name and calling a 26.00 printing calculator "A DESK TOP COMPUTER" is about to hit the news, another FIRST for ATARI! (Hey Buddy, wanna buy some nice waterfronted property?)

FLORIDA The President of a Usergroup was asked, Where is the new G-Dos Atari talked about a while back, you know, the auto scaling version? Well Atari???.....

NEW YORK GEM 2.2, A version of Gem is in circulation in Europe, not by Atari Overseas ...but private and reported to be excellent. Handles bigger H/D partitions and many other small problems are corrected.

NEW YORK Unix now has a mouse driven, icon-based, graphics interface. It's name is "OPEN LOOK". It features pop-up dialog boxes, pull down menus, overlapping windows and push buttons.

VIRGINIA OSI, Open Systems Interconnection, an International Computer Communications Standard, adopted by COS, Corporation for Open Systems, a neighbor of the CIA, has joined forces with no less than 12

other MAJOR computer technology companies. AT&T, IBM, SUN are few involved. The goal is to allow ALL computers to be able to exchange info via a common GLOBAL networking system where there are no compatibility problems hardware or software.

Aug 1, 1988

SUNNYVALE Atari will make the issue about the 520 STFM and D/S drives official, remember where you saw it first, ST Report's Spring Comdex Issue, 6 weeks ago.

SALT LAKE CITY Rumor has it that C. Babbitt was NEVER under a 45 day contract as some folks would have the world believe.

NEW YORK CITY Capt. Blood, a game released by Mindscape, will follow the footsteps of Dungeon Master as far as sales and popularity are concerned...it is "one to buy".

SUNNYVALE Atari has another trickle poo up their sleeve, seems the "new" run of disk drives are from another and different vendor, SONY CORP. hmm SONY, NO BALONEY. You'll recognize it by the smaller button.

Aug 8, 1988

NEW YORK CITY The ST game system persists and does, for all intents and purposes, exist. Seems this firm was given the inside track to being the first one to be able to sell the "new" game system

SUNNYVALE The portable ST is a full scale reality, seems it's even nicer than the one displayed at Hanover.

DENVER A number of dealers have unified and are preparing a formal request to be sent to Atari asking for more sales oriented professional area representatives.

ALBANY IBM has now gone after the midi market with a vengeance, with a keyboard that has both the video and audio controllers built in and full audio spectrum available with full video potential also available.

SUNNYVALE Transputer system is a fact but not for the USA for many months to come.. watch for it in Europe (UK) first.

Aug 15, 1988

UTAH Word Perfect IS NOW shipping the updated version of it's excellent word processor dated 08-01-88.

COLORADO SPECTRE 128 shall be it's NAME ..MAC Emulation is it's fame! Want more info? Drop a note or call.... GADGETS BY SMALL INC., 40 west Littleton Blvd., #210-211, Littleton, Colorado, 80120, (303)-791-6098.

NEW YORK CITY Cray Computer has just received an order for 2 of their latest units..not yet even designed! cost 10 million.

SUNNYVALE The Laptop may have a cousin! Using MS-Dos or is this the unfinished OS mystery.....hmmmmmm

time will tell.

PENNSYLVANIA A major distributor has contracted to import ST Clones! As soon as the US version of the European ST clone is ready, they will debut here...also planned are mega clones...seems this may be the answer to the MO cutoff.

SUNNYVALE Atari has given Neil Harris the "awesome" job of enhancing the image of FEDERATED, (now is your chance Neil, show developer support, stock up Federated with the software and hardware from the Loyal Developers!)

JACKSONVILLE ABCO Computer Corp. announces three new Hard Disk configurations, owner sez: "We will continue to support Atari!" call for info: 904-783-3319.

AUG 22, 1988

ATLANTA USA TODAY, The newspaper, had a gorgeous full 2 page spread ----- bought and paid for by Commodore, TELLING ALL THE NON-COMPUTER TYPES ALL ABOUT THE 500 AND THE 1000... dated 08-19-88. Get the MESSAGE Atari??

SUNNYVALE Atari is not sure about the 16 vs 32mb partition access nor ----- are they sure about the 12 partition limit. They are sure they will have "hooks" installed to be able to handle the removable media drive that will work in conjunction with the new software being written. But nothing positive about the roms....sheesh! This is the third quarter guys!!!

DENVER The issue of D/S DRIVES is heating up more and more, ----- especially since Atari has made NO official statement or taken any official posture..We suggest they assign a ninety day grace period during which any units purchased having S/S drive be exchanged at no charge...all others wishing to make the exchange can do so for a fee of 65.00. Any Takers?

HOUSTON One of the MAIN reasons Atari is here is because of the FREE ----- TRADE ZONE, It allows the manufacture of product, duty free, for EXPORT ONLY..Duty is paid only on goods destined to be sold in the US. "Read between the lines bunky"

HOLLYWOOD Seems a Usergroup President walked into a Federated Store ----- with a Video Camera on his shoulder blazing away..the management of the store went nuts demanding the tape ..I wonder why??? Do you? More to come on this one!

SUNNYVALE Watchword on the Blvd. What is this new and strange creature ----- called ST PLUS (laptop) also...what is a STACEY (colors and sound) hmmm verry interresting!

NEW YORK Atari stock is now at 7.00 after trading of roughly 100,000 ----- shares and they enjoy a position in the top 10.

TITUSVILLE COMPUTER SHOPPER SOLD! Ziff - Davis has acquired the favorite ----- and world's largest computer magazine. Ziff Davis will not be as liberal, NO reprints allowed anymore. What a nice bunch of folks!

AUG 29, 1988

Sunnyvale Federated Stores are here to stay. N. Harris is holding ----- training sessions to enhance the abilities of the reps at Federated. Also, Federated is aggressively obtaining additional product lines.

Las Vegas When is a Laptop not a Laptop? Ans: When an unpredictable ----- head man vacillates like a bowl of jelly. Wanna buy a duck?

Houston A certain hard disk specialty house is currently in a state ----- flux, many users advise, "do not prepay, go COD only"

Jacksonville Certain Authorized Atari Dealers have been found selling ----- the early release version of the SC1224 for over 500.00! What a wonderful way to build good customer relations. These guys must use a .45 for a cash register!

Florida Why do we still hear the cries ...where is the Atari ----- Representative for the State of Florida? Has it come down to people being vapor also?

New York Seems the legality of the Clones (ST) is in question, well ----- the slick European Barristers have a loophole of sorts seems some concessions were made a few years ago, that are now going to haunt Atari...

NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 7:30 P.M.

CONFEDERATION COLLEGE

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR

FEATURING

DEMOS, NEW GAMES, UTILITIES

AND

THE DISK OF THE MONTH!

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